

THE PAMPLIN TELEGRAM



LETTER FROM THE FRONT

Update from the Executive Director

Sometimes you just know the time is right. Such was the case in October when I announced my retirement from Pamplin Historical Park effective at the end of February 2017.

Pamplin Historical Park has been the center of my professional life for more than twenty-two years. The Park started in 1992 with a suggestion to acquire a 100-acre parcel that now encompasses the Battlefield Center, Fortifications Exhibit, and a portion of the Breakthrough Trail. I was then serving as the President of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites – forerunner of today's Civil War Trust – when one of our board members urged our organization to consider a fundraising campaign to purchase a portion of the April 2, 1865 Petersburg Breakthrough that had just come on the market. The cost was relatively modest – low six figures – but still a daunting task for a new organization.

Simple research revealed that the target property had once belonged to the Boisseau family, direct ancestors of Robert B. Pamplin and his son, who were well-known philanthropists locally and in educational projects in the Pacific Northwest. I decided to contact the Pamplins and ask them to issue our membership a challenge – raise one-half of the purchase price of the land and the Pamplin Foundation would provide a match.

After about two weeks my letter to the Pamplins had drawn no response. But then my secretary told me that Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr. was on the phone. Bob Pamplin communicates in a very direct manner and he wasted no time telling me that he and his father had given our proposal a great deal of thought and decided not to issue the matching challenge. I was momentarily disappointed. But in the next breath he next said that, instead, their foundation wished to purchase the property outright and build an interpretive park on it. In my poorly disguised ecstasy I managed to stammer out that our organization was replete with present and former National Park Service professionals (including me) who had experience and expertise in planning and operating historic sites. Would Dr. Pamplin consider hiring the APCWS to provide those services? He agreed and we used

the money to hire our own land manager to look after the properties we had already acquired.

Under that arrangement I oversaw the design and construction of what was then called Pamplin Park Civil War Site, which opened in June 1994. Five months later, Dr. Pamplin told me that the family now wished to build “a world-class Civil War museum” on the site, as well as restore and open Tudor Hall Plantation, and they wanted me to come on-site to plan and operate this new facility. After much thought my wife and I moved to Dinwiddie County in January 1995 and on Memorial Day, 1999, Pamplin Park Civil War Site became Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier.

Since then we have welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to our facility. The Park now boasts 424 acres, four museums and four historic structures, 3.5 miles of interpretive trails, the Civil War Adventure Camp, and four operational buildings. We have amassed a tremendous collection of Civil War manuscripts and photographs and a reference library that would be the envy of any Civil War student.

It has been a singular honor to have played a role in this process. I have certainly been blessed with dedicated and highly skilled colleagues at the Park and a generous and purely motivated foundation. But perhaps most of all I am grateful to the thousands of people – including the readers of this publication – who have been remarkably generous in their support of our Park.

My experience at Pamplin Historical Park has provided me the unusual if not unique opportunity to plan and build a historic site from scratch with the help of so many remarkable people. I leave the Park with a wonderful staff, stable finances, and a bright future. I hope and expect that this institution will continue to educate and inspire our guests long after my name is only a faint echo. From the bottom of my heart, thanks to all of you.



*A. Wilson Greene
Executive Director*

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Questions? Comments? Contributions to the newsletter? We'd love to hear from you! Please email us at: memberservices@pamplinpark.org

BEHIND THE LINES

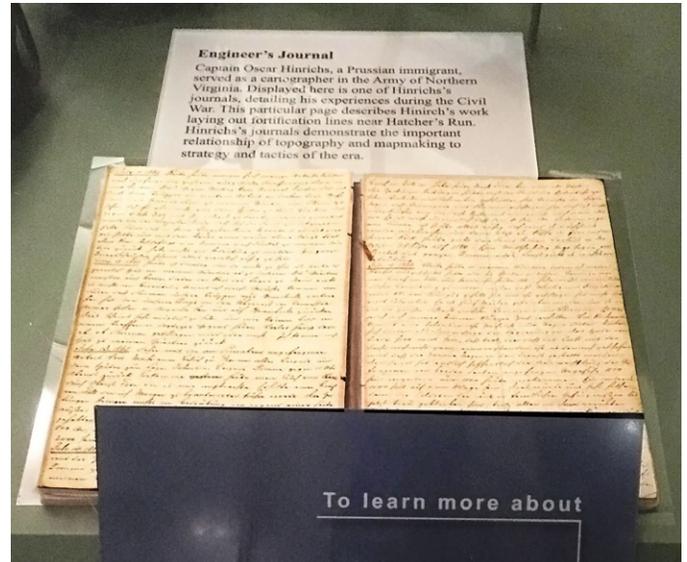
In-depth in the collections

Born in 1835, Oscar Hinrichs grew up in New York City where his father served as the consul for Saxe-Coburg, a duchy in modern-day Bavaria. Hinrichs was sent to Prussia for his education, as the Prussian school system was considered at that time to be the best in the world. Hinrichs returned to America in 1853 and began working for the United States Coast Survey in 1855. He spent the years leading up to the Civil War mapping the coast of the Carolinas. When war broke out in 1861, Hinrichs left the federally funded Survey and donned a disguise and a dead man's identification papers to slip through the Union territory and join the Confederacy to fight for the states he had come to love.

Hinrichs spent most of his Confederate career with the Second Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia and kept detailed journals of his experiences over the years. Hinrich's journals are valued for the frank nature often missing from letters and memoirs with which Hinrichs describes the individuals and events that surrounded him - both good and ill. The museum has on display Hinrich's diary from September 1863 to April 1865 documenting his trials from

the Battle of Mine Run (called Payne's Farm in Hinrichs' account) in Orange, Virginia through the Battle of Petersburg.

The journal is on loan to the museum from Richard Brady Williams. Williams was contacted in 2000 by Colonel Kenneth Lissner to appraise his great-great-grandfather's writings. When Williams realized what a gem he found he began investigating to authenticate Hinrichs account and assembled the results of that research alongside the journals in his book *Stonewall's Prussian Mapmaker: The Journals of Captain Oscar Hinrichs*. Copies of *Stonewall's Prussian Mapmaker* are available for sale in the Civil War Store.



The Hinrichs Journal as presented on display in Duty Called me Here at The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier



*Carley Elder
Senior Retail and
Collections Assistant*

ATTENTION TO ORDERS!

Pamplin Historical Park news & events

Pamplin Historical Park marked the 20th anniversary of our Civil War Symposium with an unprecedented weekend of special tours and speakers. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this terrific weekend, and we hope we can see you all again next year!



In the trenches at Petersburg National Battlefield



The Friday night reception and the reunion of friends



The welcome at the first dinner of the weekend



C-SPAN's BookTV covering our Symposium speakers



The Flemings have been with us for all 20 years



The best topics & most exciting speakers around!

TOP RAIL

Park programs & exhibits

We are currently enjoying a technological revolution for historical research. Many institutions are digitizing their manuscript collections and several organizations are creating massive online Civil War era newspaper databases. Not only do researchers have access to thousands of new sources, many of these documents are keyword-searchable, allowing quick finds that used to take hours of sifting through irrelevant material.

At the beginning of the year I began combing one such online collection, *Newspapers.com* (available for a minimal subscription charge) for information on the Hart family. Pennsylvania natives John and Mary moved to Dinwiddie County in the decade before the war and lived with their young children just south of Tudor Hall during the Petersburg Campaign. John served in the Confederate army during the last year of the conflict, supposedly as an unwilling conscript. Mary remained in the house with the children while William MacRae's Brigade camped on the property in the winter of 1864-65. During this time the Hart's oldest son, Lyman, befriended one of the Tar Heels, Corporal Andrew J. Hunter, who

visited his old pal forty-two years after the Breakthrough. Hunter's story of his return to Petersburg was published in the *Charlotte Observer* on July 8, 1907:

We returned to our line of works, and struck it at the old "Hart House," the place so many of the old Eleventh North Carolina well remember, being the place we had our last winter quarters, as also where we fought our last battle... The house, as we all remember, was a new frame building, two story, with basement built up about four feet above the ground with brick, and stood about 40 feet inside of our line. The house was occupied by Mrs. John Hart (whose husband was in the army at another point) with her two boys and two girls, and a Miss Potts. The oldest, Lyman, was then about 10 years and he was, by the way, my host on this occasion. The old well in the rear and near the line is in fine fix, as we tried the water.

The works which the Eleventh built are real good yet, and grown up with all sorts of vines and trees, including peach, apple and cherry. The portion occupied by Company B on the left has been leveled down, but all the rest are still there. The battery which

was on our right and made a right angle, is grown up with large pines. The house bears the marks of a great many minnie balls. The house land is now owned and occupied by an Austrian, who is a trucker by the name of Novosay, who took great pleasure in showing us around. He gave us three balls of canister, a piece of shell and a minnie ball which he had picked up in front of the works. I made three snap shots at the house and works, but fear I made a failure, as it was raining at the time. I told him I helped to build these works and he replied, "I wish you would help me tear them down, as they are in my way."

Despite Novosay's (spelled elsewhere as Novotny) frustration about their obtrusiveness, Pamplin Historical Park today still preserves roughly 120 yards of the Confederate earthworks located on the former Hart property.



*Edward Alexander
Park Ranger
and Historian*

RECRUITS & CONSCRIPTS

New members to Pamplin Historical Park

We are thankful for all of our members - you are our most valuable resource. Your dedication to the Park and our mission allows us to keep producing great events like our Annual Civil War Symposium, Voices from the Shadows, and our Teacher's Institute programs. Please join us in welcoming the following *newest* members from at Pamplin Historical Park.

Roslyn Farm Corporation, Colonial Heights, VA
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Beazlie Sr., Newport News, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brown, Fredericksburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. John Buchanan, Petersburg, VA
Mr. Matthew P. Carwile, Petersburg, VA
Mr. Philip C. Cheney Jr., Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Creek, Martinsburg, PA
Mr. Sean Dail, Raleigh, NC
Mrs. Maryann Dulick, Raleigh, NC
Mr. Michael Dulick, Norfolk, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Eastep, Manakin-Sabot, VA
Mrs. Debbie Farmer, Goldsboro, NC
Ms. Georgia Ferrell, Henderson, NC
Mr. Wesley Fink, Petersburg, VA
Mr. Michael W. Gabol, Houston, TX

Mr. & Mrs. John Gardner, Midlothian, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Guntrum, North Dinwiddie, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Haley, Roanoke, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Herrick, Emporia, VA
Mr. Ronnie Hubbert, North Port, AL
Mr. James L. Hunter Jr., Colonial Heights, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Jenkins, Glen Allen, VA
Mr. Robert A. Johnson, Winchester, VA
Mr. Jimmy Jones, Goldsboro, NC
Mr. Charles Koutnik, Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Krepley, New Castle, DE
Mr. Arthur Krohn, Williamsburg, VA
Mrs. Mary Sue Krout, Petersburg, VA
Rev. Michael Malone, Petersburg, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McCracken, Prince George, VA

Mr. & Mrs. Roy McIntyre, Rockville, VA
Ms. Barbara F. Mitchell, Chesterfield, VA
Mr. John Neely, Salem, MA
Mr. James B. Nickerson, South Chesterfield, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pierro, Mechanicsville, VA
Mr. Charles Reynolds, South Chesterfield, VA
Mr. & Mrs. R.B. Schmack, Suffolk, VA
Mr. Mark Schneier, Virginia Beach, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Van Simmons, Mechanicsville, VA
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Smith, Midlothian, VA
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Steele, LaCrosse, VA
Ms. Erlinda Strickland, Virginia Beach, VA
Mr. Randolph H. Turner, Snow Camp, NC
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Vaughan, Colonial Heights, VA

Welcome to the regiment!

COMING EVENTS



Tea & Tidings – Dec. 3

Ladies and gentlemen in period dress will teach guests 19th-century etiquette while serving gourmet holiday tea and tasty treats. Attendees will also learn about holiday customs of the Civil War era, including traditional Christmas carols and stories. *Reservations required.*



Valentine's Day Tea – Feb. 11, 2017

Enjoy an afternoon of gourmet teas and tasty treats while learning 19th-century etiquette and parlor games. Treat someone special to this lovely day out the Saturday before Valentine's Day. *Reservations required.*



Park Day – April 1, 2017

This national event organized by the Civil War Trust brings history enthusiasts together in an effort to help keep our nation's heritage not only preserved, but pristine. Join us for a morning of hard work and enjoy an afternoon at the Park. *Safety gear and water will be provided. Registration required.*



Breakthrough Anniversary April 2, 2017

Walk in the footsteps of Civil War soldiers on an exclusive tour of the Park's historic grounds. This detailed, 1 ½ hour walking tour covers the story of the decisive engagement that ended the Petersburg Campaign and led to the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia. *Reservations required.*



12th Annual Spring Tour: Defending Richmond – April 27-30, 2017

Join A. Wilson Greene and local historians as we examine the various efforts to capture the Confederate capital. Highlights include visits to the Seven Days Battlefields, North Anna, Haw's Shop, Totopotomoy Creek, and Cold Harbor. We will also explore the Confederate defenses north of the James and at Drewry's Bluff. Also on the agenda are visits to the White House of the Confederacy, Tredegar Iron Works, and Belle Isle Prison. *Reservations required.*

Join the Team!

Make a valuable contribution
to your museum while
doing something
interesting and fun!

For more info contact
Volunteer Coordinator
Jordan Mock
at (804) 861-2408 or
jmock@pamplinpark.org

BOARD OF EXAMINATION

Trivia Contest

Q: Who were the last Civil War generals to be killed as a result of action? Name both the last Confederate General AND the last Union General as well as the locations.

You can win, too!

Submit your answer along with your name and address by November 30, to: triviacontest@pamplinpark.org. All correct responses will be entered into a drawing to select a winner. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to The Civil War Store and will be mentioned in the next newsletter.

Last Issue's Q & A

Q: A future Supreme Court Justice survived wounds at three different battles during the Civil War. Who was it, and when did these occur?

A: Future Supreme Court Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., was wounded three times during the Civil War. First in the chest at Ball's Bluff, then in the back at Antietam, and finally in the heel at Chancellorsville.

During his senior year of college, at the outset of the American Civil War, Holmes enlisted in the fourth battalion, Massachusetts militia, then received a commission as first lieutenant in the Twentieth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. He saw much action, from the Peninsula Campaign to the Wilderness.

Holmes sustained his first major injury of the war at Ball's Bluff – the 20th Massachusetts's first engagement. At about 4:30 in the afternoon, Holmes was shot in the chest, a wound which was nearly fatal. His father had given him a supply of laudanum to take with him, and he almost took the medicine to end his life because he believed he was near to death. His field doctors persuaded him to hold off.

After a six-month convalescence, Holmes returned to his unit only to be wounded again, shot through the neck at Antietam and reportedly left for dead on the field. The wound was not as serious as supposed, and he recovered well: rejoining his regiment near Fredericksburg just over a month later. He was again wounded – shot through the heel – in May 1863 while commanding Company G at Chancellorsville. He declined to reenlist when his time was up in 1864.

Congratulations to **Bill King** of North Dinwiddie, Virginia! His answer was selected from all the correct answers to the last trivia question. Mr. King wins a \$25 gift certificate to The Civil War Store.